

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 12, and 20 and CANCEL claim 9 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A method executed by a computer to support service site operations for offering paid services to customers, comprising the steps of:

- providing, via a network, information about paid services available from service providers to a customer who has signed up for membership with payment of a predetermined fee;
- receiving an order for one of the paid services from a terminal of the customer which is connected to the computer via the network;
- evaluating creditworthiness of the customer, based on the amount of the predetermined fee that has been paid by the customer;
- determining, based on the creditworthiness of the customer, how much on-behalf payment can be offered to the customer in payment for the paid service that the customer has ordered;
- notifying the terminal of the determined amount of the on-behalf payment; ~~and~~
- causing the determined amount of on-behalf payment to be paid to the provider of the paid service that is ordered, in expectation of later reimbursement by the customer;
- receiving from the customer a proposal for a travel product; and
- providing other members with information about the proposed travel product as one of the paid services.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the customer is a purchaser of an insurance product.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the paid services include travel packages.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the paid services include license acquisition courses.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
making the customer promote sales of products to other members; and
paying a commission to the customer when the customer receives an order for one of the products.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 6, wherein said step of making the customer promote the sales is executed only if the customer has a sales agent license for a predetermined set of insurance products.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 7, further comprising the steps of:
compiling an information entry page which is customized according to the sales agent license that the customer owns; and
sending data of the customized information entry page to the terminal.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Original) The method according to claim 9, further comprising the step of paying a commission to the customer who has proposed the travel product.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A service delivery support system for supporting provision of paid services, comprising:

information providing means for providing, via a network, information about paid services available from service providers to a customer who has signed up for membership with payment of a predetermined fee;

reception means for receiving an order for one of the paid services from a terminal of the customer which is connected to the service delivery support system via the network;

on-behalf payment determining means for evaluating creditworthiness of the customer, based on the amount of the predetermined fee that has been paid by the customer, and

determining, based on the creditworthiness of the customer, how much on-behalf payment can be offered to the customer in payment for the paid service that the customer has ordered;

notification means for notifying the terminal of the determined amount of the on-behalf payment; ~~and~~

means for causing the determined amount of on-behalf payment to be paid to the provider of the paid service that is ordered, in expectation of later reimbursement by the customer;

means for receiving from the customer a proposal for a travel product; and

means for providing other members with information about the proposed travel product as one of the paid services.

13. (Original) The service delivery support system according to claim 12, wherein the customer is a purchaser of an insurance product.

14. (Original) The service delivery support system according to claim 12, wherein the paid services include travel packages.

15. (Original) The service delivery support system according to claim 12, wherein the paid services include license acquisition courses.

16. (Original) The service delivery support system according to claim 12, further comprising proposal reception means for receiving a travel proposal from the customer, wherein said information providing means informs another customer of the received travel proposal as one of the paid services.

17-19 (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium storing a service delivery supporting program which assists delivery of paid services with a computer system, the service delivery supporting program causing the computer system to perform the steps of:

providing, via a network, information about paid services available from service providers to a customer who has signed up for membership with payment of a predetermined fee;

receiving an order for one of the paid services from a terminal of the customer which is connected to the computer system via the network;

evaluating creditworthiness of the customer, based on the amount of the predetermined fee that has been paid by the customer;

determining, based on the creditworthiness of the customer, how much on-behalf payment can be offered to the customer in payment for the paid service that the customer has ordered;

notifying the terminal of the determined amount of the on-behalf payment; ~~and~~

causing the determined amount of on-behalf payment to be paid to the provider of the paid service that is ordered, in expectation of later reimbursement by the customer

receiving from the customer a proposal for a travel product; and

providing other members with information about the proposed travel product as one of the paid services.

21. (canceled)